

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the December 12, 2005 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2005 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, S. Hoag, O. Raadam, D. Stillinger, K. Tubbs, and N. Hagner. Also attending were M. Olmstead and J. Tullman of the Tree Protection Committee, and M. Bammel of the Solar Energy Subcommittee.

CTEC's Purpose (NJ40:56A, 1968): to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement – The meeting schedule for 2005 was published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers and posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings and participate in projects.

Minutes

Ms. Hoag moved to accept the minutes from the November 14, 2005 meeting and Mr. Raadam seconded, with all in favor.

Events

Tuesday, February 21, 2006, Frelinghuysen Arboretum, presentation on pesticides and organic lawn care. Promoted by Kathy Abbott and Lydia Chambers. All are welcome.

Actions

Mary Olmstead and June Tullman members of the Tree Protection Committee discussed with the commission the progress on the tree brochure, amending the tree protection ordinance and community education. Tree brochure is being drafted by K. Metrocavich and additional assistance is not needed at this time. Tree Protection Subcommittee is available to contribute to brochure if needed. Subcommittee to review draft brochure and amend. Once completed this brochure will be distributed along with tree removal permit and will be available in various departments at the township municipal building and on the township web site. Follow up meeting date to be determined.

Amended tree protection ordinance would include suggestions on types of trees/shrubs that are suitable to this area - grow well/deer resistant. Consider addressing a shrub screening ordinance.

Connect with the public at community education gatherings/fairs, schools or similar places/events. Reinforce Tree Protection Ordinance; provide informational handouts consisting of tree maintaining, fertilizer, etc. Express need for tree protection at construction sites, report unusual demolition of trees.

Open space tax ordinance - Commission to send letter to Township Committee suggesting consideration of a cap on recreation maintenance/development, also mention that more time might have been useful for public input before final discussion on use of funds, intent could be more clear as to what/how money will be spent. As per members K. Abbott, S. Hoag, O. Raadam and D. Stillinger.

Diesel emissions discussion - O. Raadam - Proposal passed for funds for clean up diesel engine emissions. Recommend school buses reduce diesel emissions over time. O. Raadam to continue researching. Keep on agenda.

Discussion on solar lighting for parking lots at municipal building. Approximately 14 light fixtures are located in the parking lots. Mike Bammel will look into cost of replacing light fixtures only, not poles, and rebates should apply. He will also discuss the lights with Twp. administrator. Commission supports efforts. Keep on agenda. Mike Bammel will continue researching. Presentation to Township Committee on solar energy by M. Bammel will be suggested for the Committee's first February 2006 meeting.

Discussion on recycling center - should be open every Saturday (presently twice a month) - discuss with Township administrator. Commission to write letter recommending the center be open every Sat. K. Tubbs

Review development applications:

-- St. Hubert's. Verbal comments made by CTEC at Dec. 7 Bd. of Adjustment meeting, and letter dated 12-5-05 from CTEC mailed to Board of Adjustment. Variance needed for impervious cover.

-- Lin/Huang, 552 River Rd., Block 62 Lot 60, for subdivision of one lot into two undersized and under-width lots with extreme disturbance of steep slopes. O. Raadam reviewed, comments will be sent to Planning Board.
-- Numan, 412 Fairmount Ave., Block 48.02 Lot 34, for use variance for a child care facility. Application discussed by Commission, no CTEC action needed.
-- Ryneerson, Valley View Rd., Block 8 Lot 10, for subdivision of one lot into two lots. Variance requested for steep slopes. O. Raadam reviewed, comments will be sent to Planning Board.
-- Sterling Properties, Shunpike Rd. Application for renewal of temporary use permit for construction trailer. No CTEC action needed.

Conservation Plan Implementation Subcommittee report

Items to be considered for implementation will include issues around large houses replacing small ones and the resulting impact to neighborhoods. Community education on environmental landscaping and building will be implemented. N. Hagner, K. Tubbs.

Board Reports

Report from Township Committee by N. Hagner concerning Open Space Tax ordinance, other Committee actions.

Report from Open Space Committee by S. Hoag.

Other

Reminder to commission members - print out your copy of agenda and minutes and bring to meeting.

Mail

Located on filing cabinet in meeting room - various newsletters, announcements, etc.

The CTEC meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Scannelli
CTEC Minutes Secretary